

FROME RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1935.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit my 18th ANNUAL REPORT on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of the Frome Rural District for the year ending December 31st, 1935.

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS.

The number of live births registered during the year was 137—78 boys and 59 girls. This is rather more than the number for the last three years, though still much below the normal figure.

The *Birth Rate* per 1,000 population is 13.8. The rate for England and Wales is 14.7.

DEATHS.

The *Infant Mortality*, that is, the number of deaths under one year of age, is 8. This is a slight increase over last year, when the number was unusually low.

The rate per 1,000 registered live births is 59.

The rate for England and Wales is 57.

Deaths under one year analysed :—

Under one week	4
One to four weeks	1
One to six months	3
Six to twelve months	0
	—
	8
	—

The *Causes of Death* under one year of age were as follows :—

Pneumonia	2
Bronchitis	1
Congenital Malformation of Heart	1
Premature Birth	1
Injury at Birth	1
Status Lymphaticus	1
Convulsions	1
	—
	8
	—

THE GENERAL DEATH RATE.

The number of deaths registered during 1935 was 77—43 males and 34 females.

The number after correction for inward and outward transfers was 104—55 males and 49 females.

This gives a death-rate, after correction for transfers, of 10.5.

With the exception of 1933, when the rate was the same, this is the lowest for the last six years.

The rate for England and Wales is 11.7.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Tables showing the ages at which death occurred and the causes of death (classified) will be found in the Appendix.

It will be noted that some 80% of the deaths occurred in the last two age groups, viz., 20 at 45 years of age to 65, and 63 at 65 years of age and upwards.

Among the causes of death there is nothing of note.

Deaths from Heart Disease still head the list, but only slightly.

Deaths from Respiratory Diseases, which were 33 last year, have dropped to 13.

There was only one death from Influenza, as against seven last year.

Deaths from Cancer have dropped from 14 to 11.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER.

Mells Water Supply.—The two sources of supply to this parish, from springs on opposite sides of the valley, were acquired by the Council, and works carried out for the linking up of the two systems by a 2-in. cast iron main, with balancing tank on the supply from the Chantry springs. The effect has been an improvement in the distribution of water over the village in general, and a supply to the 24 Council houses made available to the occupiers inside their houses, in place of stand-pipes on the roadside.

A great improvement in the constancy of the supply has been effected, as a number of old standing leakages have been stopped, and alterations to the supply to a particular farm have been carried out, eliminating a wastage which was taking place.

Buckland Dinham Supply.—Owing to the intermittency of the supply to the higher levels of the village during the summer-time, due to the large draw-off at lower levels, a scheme for the erection of a 6,000-gallon cast iron storage tank was carried out, to meet the demands of the peak draw-off.

Coleford Water Supply.—The erection of 20 Council Houses on the high level at Coleford necessitated the provision of a larger storage tank on the high level main, and a scheme for the erection of a 3,000 gallon pressed steel tank to replace a 600 gallon iron tank was carried out to meet the increased demand.

Norton St. Philip, Rode and Beckington (Regional Scheme).—During the past two years the Council have been grappling with the problem of a piped water supply scheme for the above parishes; but, on account of circumstances beyond their control, no great progress has been made.

Leigh-on-Mendip Water Supply.—A 600-gallon storage tank was fixed at Tadhil to receive the water lifted by the Hydrostat to this elevated part of the parish, and the overflow from this connected with the system supplying the village of Leigh.

Water Analyses.—One analysis was made of a sample from a well at Leighton, which was reported to be unfit for drinking purposes.

Rivers and Streams.—Two complaints as to the pollution of these were investigated, but in each case no action was necessary.

Strict attention has been maintained to see that no new drainage outfalls have been made into them.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

A length of 9-in. sewer for about 30 yards was relaid at Church Hill, Coleford, on account of its having insufficient fall.

A scheme has been prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers for the provision of adequate sewers and sewerage disposal works for Coleford, which is a portion of the Parish of Kilmersdon.

The drainage arrangements of this village at present are insufficient, unsatisfactory, and give rise to nuisances, especially in warm weather, and I trust that the scheme will eventually materialise.

The cleansing of sewer ditches has been carried out where necessary, and regular attention and supervision maintained at the sewage tanks at Nunney.

Scavenging and Disposal of Refuse.—Coleford is the only village where the general scavenging of refuse is carried out, under an order made under Section 42 of P.H.A. 1875, and this work has been satisfactorily done.

In practically the whole of the other parts of the district—with the exception of isolated houses and farms—the monthly collection of indestructible refuse is carried out, and the material dumped in disused quarries.

As time goes on the volume of this material does not decrease, but, on the contrary, seems to grow considerably, and, as the dumping places are filled in one by one, the question arises as to what will ultimately be done with this large volume of material when all the available holes are filled in, a condition which is fast becoming a reality !

Sanitary Inspection of Area.

275 premises were inspected for sanitary defects during the year.

25 nuisances were discovered.

For the remedy of these the number of notices served was :—

(a) Statutory	..	..	..	..	0
(b) Informal	..	..	..	..	25

All these were abated by the end of the year.

Schools.

The sanitary condition and water supply of the Schools are good. No nuisances were reported during the year.

School Closing.—No Schools were closed for infectious disease this year.

Housing.

For Statistics see Appendix.

30 new houses were built by the Local Authority, with State assistance, under the Housing Act, 1930, and 12 otherwise.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply—

Number of Producers on the Register .. 422

Number of Distributors on the Register, divided as follows :—

(a) Distributors only	..	..	..	0
(b) Distributors who are also producers	..	..	..	80

(A producer is only included as a distributor if he definitely makes a business of selling his milk by retail to individual customers).

Number of licences given to Graded Milk Distributors :—

Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	2
Grade "A" Producers	..	..	..	..	21
Grade "A" Bottling	..	..	..	..	1

Milk Factories and Depots.—There is now only one—at Staplemead Dairy, near Frome. The other two are not now working.

Examination of Milk for Tubercle Bacilli.—24 samples, from the milk of 584 cows, were taken for the County Medical Officer of Health. Of these only one sample was positive.

Meat Supervision and Examination.—15 carcasses of pigs, 9 heads, and 19 offals of pigs were examined and condemned.

Ten of these were unsound, and the rest tubercular. These were accordingly destroyed.

Slaughter Houses—

Number Licensed	..	..	..	12
Number Registered	..	..	..	0
Knackers' Yards	..	..	..	3

Bakeries.—The number remains the same. One nuisance was reported and remedied.

National Rat Week.—Action was continued against the rat pest. Posters were exhibited and handbills distributed. Many enquiries were answered. All refuse heaps and other places known to be infested were well treated with rat poison.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Disease.

Scarlet Fever.—There were ten cases notified during the year, scattered over seven different villages. Four of these cases were sent to Shepton Mallet Isolation Hospital, one of which died. The rest were isolated at home; no further cases developed from these.

Diphtheria.—Only one case was notified. This was isolated at home.

Supplies of Antitoxin were sent to local medical practitioners whenever required.

Puerperal Fever.—One case occurred and was removed to Hospital and recovered.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—No cases occurred.

Influenza.—This was not epidemic. One death only was due to this cause.

Pneumonia.—While not so prevalent as last year, fifteen cases were notified with eight deaths.

Tuberculosis.—The number was even lower than last year—5 respiratory cases, against 7 last year, with one death.

No un-notified cases were discovered in the District.

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Inspections were made of these throughout the District during the year.

Three nuisances were discovered, and remedied.

APPENDIX.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	51,718
Population (estimated resident, mid-1935)	9,823
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1935)	2,806
Number of families or separate occupiers	2,837
Rateable Value (end of 1935)	£37,040
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ..	£154

Social Conditions.—Most of the area is engaged in farming and production of milk.

Coleford is part of the Radstock coal-mining district. Most of the unemployment occurs in this part of the District.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	<i>Total.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Live Births: Legitimate	137	78	59
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	13.8.		
Stillbirths	5	2	3

Deaths (corrected) 104 55 49

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 10.5.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes—

Puerperal Sepsis Deaths ..	0
Other Puerperal Causes	0
Total	0

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All Infants, per 1,000 live births	59
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ..	0
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0

Causes of Death.

Scarlet Fever	1
Influenza	1
Phthisis	1
Other Tubercular Diseases	2
Cancer	11
Organic Heart Disease	19
Bronchitis	4
Pneumonia	9
Other Respiratory Diseases	0
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	1
Nephritis	6
Puerperal Fever	0
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy	
Parturition	0
Congenital Debility and Malformation, in-	
cluding Premature Birth	2
Violent Deaths (except Suicide)	3
Suicide	1
Other Defined Diseases	14
Apoplexy and Cerebral Haemorrhage ..	16
Old Age	10
Convulsions	2
	104

Ages at which Death occurred.

Under one year	8
1 year and under 2 years	1
2 „ „ „ 5 „	1
5 „ „ „ 15 „	2
15 „ „ „ 25 „	4
25 „ „ „ 45 „	5
45 „ „ „ 65 „	20
65 „ „ upwards	63
	104

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Hospitals.—No change.

Ambulance Facilities.—No change.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority—

One Medical Officer of Health.

One whole-time Sanitary Inspector.

Nursing.—Supplied by the County District Nurses.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.—These are situated in the Urban District, and are available for the Rural District.

Housing Statistics for the year 1935.*Number of New Houses erected during the year :—*

(i) With State Assistance :	
(a) By the Local Authority	30
(b) By other Bodies or Persons	0
(ii) Otherwise	12
	—
	42
	—

Housing Inspections.*1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ..	185
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	390
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	47
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	120
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	20
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	27

2. Remedy of Defects during the year Without Service of Formal Notices :—

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ..	13
--	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—
(a) Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after serving of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ..	25
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

(c) Proceedings under Sections 19 and 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	30
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..	20

(d) Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—

Nil

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
DURING THE YEAR 1935.

Disease.	Total Cases.	Admitted to Hospital.		Deaths.
		Cases.	Hospital.	
Smallpox	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	10	4	1	1
Diphtheria	1	0	0	0
Enteric (including Paratyphoid) ..	1	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	1	1	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	0	0
Pneumonia	15	3	8	

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	New Cases.		Deaths.	
	Respiratory.		Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	0 1
5—	0 1	—	—	—
15—	0 1	—	—	—
25—	0 1	—	—	0 1
35—	—	—	—	—
45—	0 1	—	—	—
55—	—	—	1 —	—
65 and upwards ..	1 0	—	—	—
Totals	1 4	0 0	1 0	0 2

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—No cases reported.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. ROBINSON CODD, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.,

Medical Officer of Health to the Frome Rural District Council.

Nunney, Frome,

April 15th, 1936.